Poor road construction

519. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in India maximum penalty for road contractors is forfeiture of his deposit amount and black listing of his company instead of sending him to jail as in USA;

(b) if so, whether Government is aware of poor construction of roads all along National or State Highways particularly in Delhi's potholed roads including Janakpuri Flyover which was to last for seventy five years but gave way in six years;

(c) if so, the fine that has been imposed on contractors by MCD or PWD; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by Central Road Research Institute to ensure high durability of roads/flyovers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. The maximum penalty for non-performing of assigned work by the contractors is generally forfeiture of the contractor's deposited performance security/guarantee as per the contract conditions. Further in some cases, based on contract conditions, the balance work is got executed at the risk and cost of the defaulting contractor.

(b) This Department is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the Country. Roads other than National Highways come within the purview of respective State Governments. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi had constructed Janakpuri Flyover and it is in domain of Government of NCT, Delhi. In Janakpuri flyover where a pothole (6" diameter) occurred in one of the deck slab, the same was got repaired after recasting of the whole panel by the concerned agency M/s. Uttar Pradesh State Bridge Corporation at their own cost as the flyover was in the warranty period of 10 years. The pothole in Janakpuri flyover was localized one only and traffic is now plying from September, 2008 after repairing.

(c) The complete responsibility of any repair, restoration within the warranty period lies with the construction agency.

(d) The Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) is looking into the increase in intensity of traffic in Delhi, CRRI has suggested for evaluation of the structural adequacy of the existing roads and flyover periodically to ascertain the overlay requirements.

Estimates for Rajasthan

†520. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimates submitted by the State of Rajasthan under the approved Annual Plan for the year 2007-08 are pending with his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Central Government to approve these estimates so that the money could be utilized timely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Approval/sanction of proposals is a continuous process. The proposals received from State Public Works Department under the approved Annual Plan, are being examined and sanctioned during the financial year. As regards the proposals received under approved Annual Plan for the year 2007-08, works amounting to Rs.186.48 crore had been sanctioned.

Express Highways

521. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to construct high-speed Express highways and scrap six-laning of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Express highways that are proposed to be constructed in Maharashtra under this project; and

(d) the details of highways which have since been four-laned in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) the Government has approved construction of high-speed Express highways by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase VI. There is no proposal to scrap six-laning of National Highways approved under NHDP, Phase-V.

(b) The Express highways included under NHDP Phase VI are as below:

(i)	Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway	—	380.6 Km
(ii)	Delhi-Meerut Expressway	—	6089 Km
(iii)	Bangalore-Chennai Expressway	—	334 Km
(iv)	Kolkata-Dhanbad Expressway	—	277 Km

(c) 113.300 Km length out of total length of 380.600 Km of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway falls in Maharashtra under NHDP Phase-VI.

(d) The details of highways which have been four laned in Maharashtra are given in the Statement.